IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs ~~(1)~~ with two limbs ~~(2, 3)~~ which can be moved relative to one another, of which at least one first limb ~~(2)~~ is supported such that it can be moved relative to a drive housing ~~(10)~~ between an insertion position and a welding position ~~(4, 5)~~, ~~in which said welding position~~ a work piece ~~which is~~ to be welded **[[**is**]]** being clamped in said welding position to welding contacts ~~(6, 7)~~ on ends ~~(8, 9)~~ of the welding tong limbs ~~(2, 3)~~, said contacts being essentially inclined towards each other, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the welding tongs ~~(1)~~ comprise a particularly self-supporting moveable housing ~~(11)~~, which can move along the drive housing ~~(10)~~ and which comprises a retaining device ~~(12)~~ which supports the first welding tong limb ~~(2)~~ outside **[[**of**]]** the drive housing ~~(10)~~.

2. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to Claim **1**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the retaining device ~~(12)~~ can be moved together with the first welding tong limb ~~(2)~~ between **[[**its**]]** said insertion and welding positions ~~(4, 5)~~.

3. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to Claim **1** ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the moveable housing ~~(11)~~ is supported for movement on the drive housing ~~(10)~~ and/or on another part of the welding tongs by at least one linear guide, in particular a sliding guide ~~(13)~~.

4. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **3**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sliding guide ~~(13)~~ comprises a guide rail ~~(14, 15, 16, 17)~~ and at least one bogie ~~(18, 19, 20, 21)~~, which are moveable relative to one another.

5. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **4**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the guide rail ~~(14 - 17)~~ on the moveable housing ~~(11)~~ and the bogie ~~(18 - 21)~~ on the drive housing ~~(10)~~ are each particularly detachably mounted.

6. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **5**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bogie ~~(18 to 21)~~ is fixed immovably on the drive housing ~~(10)~~.

7. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **6**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least two bogies are arranged spaced from one another in the displacement direction ~~(34)~~ of the guide rail ~~(14 - 17)~~.

8. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bogie ~~(18 - 21)~~ comprises a lubricant reservoir ~~(94)~~.

9. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the moveable housing ~~(11)~~ comprises two housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~, arranged essentially symmetrically to one another and extending in the displacement direction ~~(34)~~ and which are detachably joined together at least at their ends by a front and/or rear face plate ~~(24, 25)~~, wherein the front face plate is formed as a retaining device ~~(12)~~.

10. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~ are formed in an approximate C-shape, and a cover panel ~~(28)~~ is arranged between two mutually facing upper ends ~~(26, 27)~~ of the housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~.

11. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein insertion grooves ~~(29)~~ for the circumferential retention of the cover panel ~~(28)~~ are formed in the upper ends ~~(26, 27)~~ of the housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~ and in mutually facing inner sides ~~(30, 31)~~ of the face plates ~~(24, 25)~~.

12. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim 11, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each

housing half ~~(22, 23)~~ comprises on its inner side ~~(32, 33)~~ two rail indentations ~~(35, 36)~~ running in the displacement direction ~~(34)~~ at least for the insertion of the lower ends ~~(37)~~ of the corresponding guide rails ~~(14 - 17)~~.

13. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **12**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the guide rails ~~(14 - 17)~~ are detachably mounted in the associated rail indentation ~~(35 to 36)~~, in particular by screwed joints.

14. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **13**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a fixing slot formed in the height direction ~~(39)~~ of the guide rail ~~(14 - 17)~~ in the housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~ runs along the rail indentation ~~(35, 36)~~ and opens out into the same or is arranged adjacent to the same and a number of clamping holes ~~(40)~~ running transversely to the fixing slot ~~(38)~~ are formed in the housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~ for screwing in appropriate clamping screws ~~(41)~~.

15. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **14**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rail indentation ~~(35, 36)~~ formed with a different depth comprises indentation sections ~~(42, 43)~~ adjacent to one another, wherein the first indentation section ~~(42)~~ with a shallower depth accommodates the lower end ~~(37)~~ of the guide rail ~~(14 - 17)~~ and a pressure pad ~~(44)~~ is arranged in the second indentation section ~~(43)~~ with a greater depth,

which in particular detachably fixes the guide rail ~~(14 – 17)~~ within the rail indentation ~~(35, 36)~~ relative to a rail reference edge ~~(45)~~.

16. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to one of the aforementioned claims claim **15**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rail reference edge ~~(45)~~ is formed by a step edge ~~(46)~~ between the two indentation sections ~~(42, 42)~~ and/or by an edge ~~(47)~~ of the rail indentation ~~(35, 36)~~ lying opposite the pressure pad relative to the guide rail ~~(14 – 17)~~.

17. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **16**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pressure pad ~~(44)~~ is mounted detachably within the second indentation section ~~(43)~~ and for force application in particularly sideward in the direction of the rail reference edge ~~(45)~~.

18. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **17**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein screws and in particular set screws ~~(48)~~ are provided for the sideward application of force to the pressure pad ~~(44)~~.

19. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **18**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bogie ~~(18 to 21)~~ can be pressed on a bogie reference edge ~~(49)~~ formed outside on the drive housing ~~(10)~~ and extending in the displacement direction ~~(34)~~.

20. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **19**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein screws and in particular set screws ~~(50)~~ are provided for pressing on the bogie reference edge ~~(49)~~.

21. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **20**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a drive device ~~(85)~~ within the drive housing ~~(10)~~ comprises a screw drive ~~(52)~~ with threaded rod ~~(53)~~ and screw drive nut ~~(54)~~ as a mechanical adjusting device ~~(51)~~ in the displacement direction ~~(34)~~, wherein the screw drive nut ~~(54)~~ is arranged rotatable, but axially fixed and the threaded rod ~~(53)~~ rotationally fixed, but axially moveable, the said threaded rod ~~(53)~~ engaging, particularly rotationally fixed, with its extended end ~~(55)~~ in an indentation ~~(56)~~ formed on the inner side ~~(30)~~ of the front face plate ~~(24)~~ and being mounted detachably on the front face plate ~~(24)~~.

22. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **21**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first welding tong limb ~~(2)~~ is particularly detachably mounted on the outer side ~~(57)~~ of the front face plate ~~(24)~~ opposite the inner side ~~(30)~~.

23. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **22**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the cover panels ~~(58)~~ on the lower ends ~~(59)~~ of the housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~ protrude in the direction of the drive housing ~~(10)~~.

24. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **23**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the drive device ~~(85)~~ comprises a particularly magnetically operating brake device ~~(60)~~.

25. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **24**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bogie ~~(18 - - 21)~~ comprises circulating rolling elements ~~(61)~~ for reducing friction.

26. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **25**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the rear face plate ~~(25)~~ is essentially inverse U-shaped and partially grips around the drive housing ~~(10)~~ with its U-opening.

27. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **26**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the drive housing ~~(10)~~ comprises a detachable rear housing section ~~(62)~~ lying opposite the first welding tong limb ~~(2)~~ with electrical cables ~~(63)~~ and/or a control electronics unit ~~(64)~~ and/or a tachometer generator ~~(65)~~ or similar device, the said rear housing section ~~(62)~~ being in particular arrangeable and mountable in different rotational positions relative to the remaining drive housing ~~(10)~~.

28. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **27**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the

drive housing ~~(10)~~ comprises a sideward protruding mounting flange ~~(66)~~ for the detachable mounting of a base plate ~~(67)~~.

29. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **28**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the base plate ~~(67)~~ can be directly or indirectly connected to a handling device.

30. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **29**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein with an indirect connection to the handling device a tongs compensating device ~~(68)~~ is arranged between the said handling device and the base plate.

31. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **30**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the tongs compensating device ~~(68)~~ comprises an adjustment device ~~(69)~~ for the second welding tong limb ~~(3)~~ and/or the drive housing ~~(10)~~.

32. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **31**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the adjustment device ~~(69)~~ comprises a displacement device ~~(70)~~ between particularly the base plate ~~(67)~~ and a base frame ~~(71)~~, which can be connected to the handling device and a drive device ~~(72)~~.

33. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **32**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the displacement device ~~(70)~~ comprises at least two guide rails ~~(73, 74)~~ and bogies ~~(75, 76)~~ assigned to them.

34. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **33**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the guide rails ~~(73, 74)~~ are detachably fixed to the base frame ~~(71)~~ and the bogies ~~(75, 76)~~ can be moved along the guide rails ~~(73, 74)~~, wherein they are detachably fixed to the base plate ~~(67)~~.

35. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **34**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least two bogies ~~(75, 76)~~ are assigned to each guide rail ~~(73, 74)~~.

36. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **35**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bogies ~~(75, 76)~~ and/or the guide rails ~~(73, 74)~~ are mounted on the base plate ~~(67)~~ or respectively on the base frame ~~(71)~~ relative to the reference edges ~~(77, 78)~~.

37. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **36**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the second welding tong limb ~~(3)~~ is detachably mounted at its mounting end ~~(80)~~ on an underside ~~(79)~~ of the base plate ~~(67)~~ facing away from the drive housing ~~(10)~~.

38. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **37**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the drive housing ~~(10)~~ with the moveable housing ~~(11)~~ in place, the base plate ~~(67)~~, the tongs compensating device ~~(68)~~ and the base frame ~~(71)~~ are arranged essentially one above the other and exhibit essentially

the same dimensions in the displacement direction ~~(34)~~ and / or in the direction transverse to the displacement direction.

39. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **38**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a bellows ~~(81)~~ of the drive device ~~(85)~~ is detachably mounted with one end ~~(82)~~ on the inner side ~~(30)~~ of the front face plate ~~(24)~~ and its other end ~~(83)~~ particularly on a shoulder ~~(84)~~ within the drive housing ~~(10)~~.

40. (*Currently amended*) Welding tongs according to ~~one of the aforementioned claims~~ claim **39**, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a positively locked joint is formed between the face plates ~~(24, 25)~~ and the housing halves ~~(22, 23)~~ and/or between the base plate ~~(65)~~ and drive housing ~~(10)~~ or moveable housing ~~(11)~~, in particular by locating pins, feather keys, film with hard particles or similar components.